

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SAJ-01 GAC-01 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 NIC-01

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, AU

SUBJ: OPPOSITION PARTIES JOIN FORCES TO OUST SOCIALIST MAYORS
IN GRAZ AND KLAGENFURT

REF: A-112, FEB 28, 1973; A-189, MARCH 29, 1973

1. FOLLOWING SOCIALIST (SPOE) LOSSES OF ABSOLUTE MAJORITY
IN GRAZ ON FEB 25 AND IN KLAGENFURT MARCH 25 (SEE REFAIR),
PEOPLE' S PARTY (OEVP) AND FREEDOM PARTY (FPOE) REACHED
AGREEMENT ON APRIL 11 TO VOTE JOINTLY FOR FPOE' S FORMER VICE-
MAYOR ALEXANDER GOETZ TO BECOME MAYOR OF GRAZ AND PLAN TO
ELECT OEVP' S EX- MP LEOPOLD GUGGENBERGER AS MAYOR OF KLAGENFURT.
THE SOCIALISTS WHO HAD WON OVER 44 PERCENT OF THE VOTES IN
BOTH OF THESE PROVINCIAL CAPITALS WILL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR
FIRST VICE- MAYOR POSITIONS. OEVP- FPOE WILL ALSO JOIN FORCES
IN ELECTING NON- SOCIALIST MAYORS IN OTHER CARINTHIAN MUNICI-
PALITIES WHERE SPOE LOST ABSOLUTE MAJORITIES. NOTWITHSTANDING
PUBLIC CLAIMS MADE BY OEVP AND FPOE MUNICIPAL LEADERS THAT
THEIR JOINT ELECTORAL TACTICS IN STYRIA AND CARINTHIA WERE
NOT COORDINATED IN ADVANCE, OUR IMPRESSION THAT SUCH AGREE-
MENT HAD, INDEED, BEEN REACHED WAS CONFIRMED BY CASUAL
REMARK MADE BY STYRIAN GOVERNOR NIEDERL TO EFFECT THAT IF
" THINGS WORK OUT FOR GOETZ IN GRAZ THEN GUGGENBERGER WILL
MAKE IT IN KLAGENFURT".

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2. COMMENT: THESE TWO INSTANCES OF COOPERATION AMONG THE
OPPOSITION PARTIES SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS BEGINNING OF A
PERMANENT ALLIANCE, BUT RATHER AS EXPLOITATION OF MUTUALLY
ADVANTAGEOUS SITUATIONS THAT WERE MADE POSSIBLE BY OEVP' S
FRIENDLIER ATTITUDE TOWARD FPOE ADOPTED AT ITS LAST CONGRESS
(SEE A-799, DEC 7, 1972). MAIN VICTOR IN THIS TACTICAL
ALLIANCE IS FPOE WHICH FOR FIRST TIME WILL HEAD A PROVINCIAL
CAPITAL AND WILL GAIN DISPROPORTINATE INFLUENCE IN CARINTHIA.
FOR SPOE, WHICH HAD GOVERNED GRAZ AND KLAGENFURT FOR MANY
YEARS, THESE DEFEATS WILL TRIGGER SERIOUS SOUL- SEARCHING
TO DETERMINE WHY IT LOST ABSOLUTE MAJORITIES IN BOTH CITIES.
HUMES

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